

03500.015567

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of: )  
 :  
 KAZUHIRO SAITO, et al. )  
 :  
 Application No.: 09/902,719 )  
 :  
 Filed: July 12, 2001 )  
 :  
 For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, )  
 IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, )  
 AND PROGRAMS THEREOF )

#6  
TR  
4-16-04

Group Art Unit: 2621

April 8, 2004

**RECEIVED**

APR 12 2004

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 5,689,350  
 Europe 820 189  
 Europe 674 430  
 Europe 529 967  
 Germany 31 45 535

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above-identified U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report from the European Patent Office, which is dated March 4, 2004, is enclosed.

An English-language abstract for Germany 31 45 535 is enclosed and is believed to provide an explanation of relevance for the reference.

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

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